

## CALL FOR FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS, 2015

### NATURAL JUSTICE

#### NATURAL JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: THIRD INTAKE (JULY 2015-JUNE 2016)

The Natural Justice Environmental Law Fellowship Program is designed for committed young lawyers and individuals from other backgrounds to get a chance to engage in the fascinating space of environmental law and communities. The Fellowship offers an exciting opportunity to lawyers and others who are passionate about learning to use domestic and international environmental law to secure the rights of communities to their lands and resources. The Fellows will be exposed to a range of creative ways of using environmental law, including community-based legal empowerment; research, reflection and writing around critical issues; legal opinions and submissions; and environmental law education.

### What skills and qualities are we looking for in the fellows?

- A degree in law, natural resource management or other relevant discipline; with a keen interest in the law and in advancing the rights of communities to their territories and natural resources;
- Strong research skills with the ability to critically analyze environmental policy issues;
- A passion for learning, initiating new work, and innovating on existing research and fieldwork;
- Willingness to innovate and experiment with the creative use of different disciplines and methodologies;
- A willingness to travel on a regular basis and sometimes for extended periods;
- Ability and willingness to engage in discussions and workshops with communities while being sensitive to the nuances of the local context;
- Good communication skills, with a strong command over written and spoken English, that can be used to effectively collaborate, share and exchange information with the extended Natural Justice team and its partners; and
- Fluency in Hindi and any other Indian language is preferred.



*Temporary settlements of the Jat Maldharis against the backdrop of expanding industrialisation*

### Where do we work?

Sariska Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan: Working with agro-pastoral communities in securing their rights within the Reserve and investigating legal entitlements for relocated families.

Kachchh, Gujarat: Working with pastoral communities to help secure their rights over their grazing routes which have been restricted by industries and forest department policies.

Kandhamal and Sundergarh, Odisha: Working with adivasi communities with the aim of enabling them to assert their rights over the Khandadhar landscape.

## SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process will be in two stages. At the first stage, applicants are required to submit their application, consisting of a letter of interest, a resume with two referees, and a writing sample. A Natural Justice panel will interview shortlisted applicants at the second stage before a final decision is made. There will be two rounds of interviews in the second stage.

**Deadline for submission of applications:**  
**5<sup>th</sup> May, 2015**

**First round** of interviews: First week of May, 2014

**Second round** of interviews: Second week of May, 2015

**Selection** of fellows: Mid May, 2015

**No. of vacancies:** 4 positions

**Duration of Fellowship:** One year starting from July 2015. The position for fellows interested in our work in Kutch has an immediate opening for beginning the fellowship in June, 2015.

**Honorarium:** Twenty thousand rupees per month. Travel expenses will be covered.

**Location:** Bangalore

**Send your applications to:**

alphonsa(at)naturaljustice.org.za and

revati(at)naturaljustice.org.za with the subject line "Fellowship application" by 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

For more information on Natural Justice, see:

- [www.naturaljustice.org](http://www.naturaljustice.org)
- <http://natural-justice.blogspot.com>
- [www.community-protocols.org](http://www.community-protocols.org)

## FELLOWS' EXPERIENCES

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*"I came here hoping to look at the world through more lenses than just the legal lens. And that is exactly what this fellowship has allowed me to do. From working alongside designers and understanding communities from a sociologist's perspective to worrying about how to communicate environmental struggles creatively, Natural Justice's work is truly multidimensional"- Nayana Udaishankar*

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*"The fellowship has been a valuable professional training for a fresh graduate like me, since it is designed to encourage not only goal-oriented working in the policy and action spaces but also for self-determined creative experimentation. Freestyling with persons from diverse backgrounds, all looking to understand beyond their "fields", has been an enriching experience." - Nayantara Ranganathan*

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*"Coming from a non-legal background this fellowship has been a window for me to understand the myriad of intricacies of environmental law. Everyday is a new learning experience where the fellowship provides one with the platform to explore the field of environmental law integrated with multiple inter-disciplinary perspectives. Being able to work with communities on a personal basis has enabled me to enrich my experience further"- Prerna Talukdar*

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*"This fellowship programme has really helped me gain an insight into the fascinating domain of environmental law in India. It has given me the opportunity to pull away from academia and understand how certain concepts translate into practical work and also how the different parameters within each context include the direction of work. I feel like I have learnt a lot about the law, the communities but more importantly, about myself." Sandeep Mudhar*

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## What do the Fellows do?

Fellows will be introduced to a broad spectrum of issues within environmental law in India through working closely with the Natural Justice India team and our network of community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, experts and legal practitioners. They will be assisting in undertaking the following tasks:

- Developing legal materials and tools for community empowerment, including games, information posters, and videos;
- Organizing and facilitating community meetings and legal capacity building workshops;
- Research and publication of think-pieces relating to communities and the environment;
- Drafting legal opinions and strategies to support partner organizations;

Fellows can choose an area or concept of their interest in light of the organisation's needs, using it to navigate and engage the context in which they will be working. By the end of the Fellowship, Fellows will be expected to develop a creative piece, project or research paper around the area or concept.

